

Greece Reports



photograph by William Sauers

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A NEW SUPERVISOR FOR GREECE



On January 1, 2014, Bill Reilich will be sworn in as Supervisor of the Town of Greece. Bill has been an almost lifelong resident of the Town of Greece. He attended Greece Schools and has chosen to raise his family here as well. Bill was a former small business owner of over 28 years; Bill founded Upstate Alarm in 1975 which soon grew into the Reilich Corporation, which included Upstate Alarm and eventually expanded to include Upstate Patrol, a licensed guard agency and Upstate Telecommunications. Bill grew these businesses to employ over 60 full-time employees – he knows how to create jobs. Bill ultimately sold this business when he decided to run for State Assembly. Because of the challenges of operating a small business in New York State and the struggles while trying to grow and maintain his business, he first made the decision to run for State office so he could be an advocate for small business owners throughout our state and bring common sense to Albany. To this day, Bill still owns a small part-time business. Bill is a businessman at heart and took his real-life experiences with him as he advocated on behalf of the families and businesses he represented in the 134th District. He is not a career politician, but someone who

listens to those he represents and tries to give them a voice in their government. He now brings his dedication and commitment to Greece Town government as Supervisor. Bill is the son of a twice-wounded WWII veteran and a member of the Sons of the American Legion. His parents lived in Greece until they were well into their golden years. They decided to pull up roots and moved out West for a while, but their passion for family and their love of the Town of Greece brought them both back here to live out their final days. While in public office Bill has never supported any new tax increases or unfunded mandates. He is a fiscal conservative who puts the needs of the people he represents before politics. Bill is passionate about our Town; he truly believes that our best days are ahead of us. We can and will “Restore the Promise” for Greece.

Supervisor-Elect Reilich invites the community to join him as he takes his oath of office as the Supervisor of the Town of Greece.

Oath of Office of Greece Town Supervisor
William D. Reilich
Wednesday, January 1, 2014
One O’Clock PM
Greece Community & Senior Center
Three Vince Tofany Boulevard
Greece, NY 14612

A NOTE FROM OUR CHIEF



In September, the K9 team of Officer Jeff Phillips and Chip had two dramatic successes finding missing persons in a two-day span. One incident occurred when a distraught teenage girl wandered into a wooded area. That girl was found by Chip, semi-conscious, lying in tall grass.

The very next day, Chip found Gabby, a two-year-old girl, who had walked away from her mother. The girl

was found in a storage shed a few doors away from her home. Here is the story of Gabby, printed with permission from the Messenger Post Media.

Though September 9 ended up being a good day for Chip, the Greece Police K9, it started out as a nightmare for local couple Dan and Edelis Vogan. At a little after noon that day, Edelis was in the kitchen. Her children, Jayden and Gabby, were in their backyard in Greece playing as she watched through the wide sliding glass doors. That's when Dan, who was working at Thermofisher Scientific in Penfield, got a terrifying phone call from his wife. "She was pretty frantic," he said. "She was screaming that Gabby was missing." Dan said Edelis only looked away for a minute, but that minute was enough. Gabby, who turns 2 this month, had disappeared. Dan called the Greece Police Department, then rushed out of his office to make the 20-minute drive back home. "I was driving home and I didn't get any phone calls from anybody," he said. "Every minute that went by made it more crazy. It was quite a drive." With Edelis searching the neighborhood to no avail, she and Dan assumed the worst: Gabby had been kidnapped.

THE SEARCH

Dan wasn't the only one barreling toward the Vogan home. Greece Police officers responded to the scene and immediately joined in the search for the missing toddler. Even they couldn't find her, though. That's when Chip hit the scene.

Chip, a 2-year-old Czech Shepherd the department bought from breeders in PA using money it picked up in drug busts, is named after fallen West Webster

Firefighter Michael Chiapperini. The previous day, he tracked a distraught young woman family members feared had overdosed on drugs for nearly 90 minutes, and she was found and successfully transported to the hospital.

"In addition to fleeing criminals, Chip also tracks lost children, suicidal individuals, people overdosed on drugs, lost seniors with Alzheimer's disease, and runaways," Greece Police Chief Todd Baxter said. "Place yourself in the shoes of either set of parents - Chip is worth his weight in gold."

Chip arrived at the Vogan home with his handler, Officer Jeff Phillips, before Dan. They got to work immediately.

"The cops had been there for quite a few minutes," Dan said, "but it wasn't until they brought the K9 out there and brought him into the backyard when he instantly picked up a trail."

Gabby was found moments later, in a neighbor's unlocked shed about 100 feet away.

"My daughter sometimes, she has selective hearing," Dan said. "She was in the shed playing. She had found her way in there and found new things to play with, so she was entertained."

When Dan finally got to his house, the police were there. So was Chip, and - most importantly - so was Gabby. She had been missing for less than a half hour.

"Obviously it was Niagara Falls for everybody," he said. "I didn't really even notice the dog until I had calmed down. I was pretty much a wreck." Dan thanked an officer on scene for finding his daughter. "Don't thank me," the officer told him, pointing Chip out. "He's the hero." Gabby, who was at first afraid of the dog who found her, warmed up to him seeing her father's reaction. The family took some photos with Chip so that when Gabby grows up, Dan can tell her all about what he today refers to as "the time she almost gave me and mommy a heart attack." "I can't thank that dog enough," he said. "I know it was minor, but as those 20 minutes went by thinking the worst, it was heart-crushing, and it was the dog that found her. It's the best feeling."

It truly is the best feeling!

Your Chief,

Todd K. Baxter

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt bikes – all of the recreational vehicles are a great deal of fun but oftentimes owners are unaware the use of these motorized vehicles in the Town of Greece is in many cases illegal.

As a refresher, the Town would like to remind all **Dirt Bike, ATV, Go-cart, Mini-bike, and Go-ped** operators of the important rules and regulations that the Town will enforce.

The Greece Police Department enforces two laws to address the illegal use of motorized vehicles. The first is the Greece Town Code, Section 203 **Motorized Vehicles**. This section simply states *any vehicle operated on any Town property or right of way, by any power other than human power is illegal*. This means that the use of any of the above indicated vehicles on any roadway, sidewalk, open space, park, trail or other public property is against the law.

In addition, use of these vehicles on private property requires written permission from the property owner. Any use without this written permission is against the law. The said written permission must be in possession of the person operating the motor-driven vehicle and must be presented upon demand to any peace officer or police officer so demanding.

When permission is granted for usage of motorized vehicles on private property, please be aware of the law’s expectations: No loud, unnecessary or unusual noise that will disturb peace and quiet of others, no reckless or negligent activities that will endanger others or the property, be aware of speed and use reasonable judgment, do not operate a vehicle while intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics or drugs, and please display at least one lighted headlight and taillight between sunset and sunrise or when lights are required.

The second section of law, which is enforced, is the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law. The Vehicle and Traffic Law has several specific sections pertaining to the use of motorized vehicles. These sections include licensing, registering, insurance, safety equipment, and more.

Residents are encouraged to call 911 whenever they see anyone operating any of the above stated vehicles on any town-owned property or right of way. Additional information can be obtained by going to the Town of Greece web site Town Code section 203, or by contacting the Greece Police Department 865-9200.

Helpful Winter Tips

Snow and ice control in the Town of Greece is a team effort. The experienced personnel of the Department of Public Works are ready to respond to all that mother nature has to offer and they need your help to get their job done safely and efficiently.

The winter parking ordinance is in effect between November 1st and April 15th. Parking on any road in the Town of Greece is prohibited from the hours of 12:00 midnight to 8:00 a.m. Your cooperation with this is essential to the Department of Public Works in its efforts to plow streets in a safe and expeditious manner. Any vehicles left on the side of the road can hamper snow removal and subsequently will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner’s expense.

In addition to the parking restrictions between midnight and 8:00 a.m., the Department of Public Works requests residents to park off of the street whenever possible during the day.

The Department of Public Works will be plowing sidewalks on both sides of the main roads, and in general the north and east sides of residential streets. The inside perimeter of circles and loops will also be plowed. Vehicles cannot be parked on or near sidewalks where they can interfere with the sidewalk snow removal operation.

Plow operators have placed guide stakes in areas that are difficult to maneuver. Residents can also assist in minimizing lawn and property damage by installing their own wooden or plastic stakes along their frontage. These guides should be 3 to 4 feet tall, and should be placed at least 8 inches from the edge of the sidewalk or road.

Stakes should not be placed directly along the edge of the sidewalk or road because of the need for plow clearance and snow storage.

Sensible salting goes hand-in-hand with sensible driving. The Town of Greece will continue to make roads as safe as possible; however, drivers are encouraged to drive extra slowly and cautiously when road conditions warrant.

Other Winter Suggestions:

- Always walk on the sidewalk, never in the street.
- Children should not build snow forts or play on the snow banks in the Right of Way due to the dangers of not being visible to passenger vehicles and large snow plow trucks.
- Never pass any plow trucks on the right side.
- Homeowners/Driveway Contractors should never block the sidewalks with snow that they are removing from the driveway. It is a code violation for private snow plow contractors to leave snow in the roadways.
- Plow trucks are very large, heavy pieces of equipment. Please be extremely cautious when traveling near or around any type of snow plowing equipment. Remember: Do not tailgate and always stay at least 100 feet behind any plow truck.

By working to follow the above guidelines, we can all enjoy a safe and fun filled winter season. Thank you for your efforts!

Town of Greece Mailbox Replacement Policy

During winter cleanup, town-operated vehicles may inadvertently damage or displace a mailbox. We recommend that if you own a decorative mailbox and post, please replace it with a standard mailbox for the winter months as the Town of Greece does not replace any custom mailboxes or posts.

In the event your mailbox is damaged or displaced by a town vehicle, the Town of Greece Department of Public Works will repair or replace your mailbox with a standard metal mailbox at no cost.

Please contact the Department of Public Works at 225-4590 or the Constituent Services Department at 225-2000 to report your damaged or displaced mailbox.

If you do not want the replacement mailbox and post offered by the Town of Greece, you may receive a reimbursement up to \$35 with the submission of original receipt as proof of purchase.

GREECE VALUATION UPDATE

Your guide to property assessment review in the Town of Greece

In accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law, the Town of Greece is required to maintain up-to-date assessment records. To meet the State's guidelines, the Town of Greece has begun the process of conducting a valuation update effective on July 1st, 2014.

The following information has been prepared to help you understand the Valuation Update process.



The Town of Greece is Monroe County's largest municipality, covering 41 square miles. Greece is home to 34,000 parcels to include more than 31,000 residential properties. Over the next several months, all properties within the town will be reviewed in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law.

Why Assess Properties?

Under NY State Real Property Tax Law all municipalities must update property assessments at least every four years. Revaluation or reassessment is a systematic review of all locally assessed properties as of the valuation date.

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How the Valuation Process Works

Experienced and qualified appraisal personnel have been in the Greece neighborhoods to conduct visual property inspections for the "mass appraisal" process.

The value assigned to each property is based on the determination of what it would be worth if it were to be put up for sale or its "current market value".

All property owners will be notified in writing on or before May 1, 2014 of their new assessed value.

Dates to Remember

November / December 2013

Property owners will receive written notification of their new tentative assessment.

December / March 2014

Informal Hearings will be held to enable homeowners the opportunity to discuss their assessments.

March 1, 2014

Taxable Status Date. Deadline for filing for exemptions.

May 27, 2014

Deadline for filing of Assessment Grievances (Form RP524) to the Board of Assessment Review.

Working to Keep Greece Property Values Fair and Equitable

If you feel that your Assessment is unfair?

All property owners have the right to a review of their property assessment. The process by which assessments may be challenged involves the following three options:

1. Informal Hearing

The Town of Greece will hold informal hearings to provide an opportunity for owners to discuss their assessment. These hearings will take place December 2013 through March 2014. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced. The hearing process will allow the property owner to provide information to the Assessor's Office as to why they feel that the value is incorrect.

2. Formal Grievance Process

For a formal review of your assessment, you will be required to complete and file a Form RP-524. Forms will be available at the Assessor's Office in the Greece Town Hall and online at www.tax.ny.gov and must be filed no later than May 27, 2014. Your form will be reviewed by the Board of Assessment Review (BAR), an objective body of officers empowered to hear and determine complaints in relation to assessments. You will be given an appointment to present your case.

3. Small Claims Court

If dissatisfied with the BAR decision, you may request judicial review with a Small Claims Assessment Review (SCAR) hearing officer. The hearing officer is directed by law to consider the best evidence in each case. He may order a reduction or decide that the assessment should remain unchanged.

Q & A Answers to Common Questions

- ***Why does the valuation of my property need to be reviewed?***

The Town of Greece must perform valuation reviews in accordance with New York State Law. The goal is to ensure that every property owner is responsible for their fair share.

- ***Who determines assessments?***

The Town Assessor is responsible for assessing all properties at 100% of market value. The Assessor bases the assessed value on information obtained through the mass appraisal process conducted on all properties as determined by current market value.

- ***When and where will I see my new assessment figure?***

First you will receive a letter from the Town Assessor's Office indicating your new assessment. This value will be reflected on your 2014 School Tax Bill and your 2015 Town and County Tax Bill.

- ***Does an assessment increase mean my taxes will also be increased?***

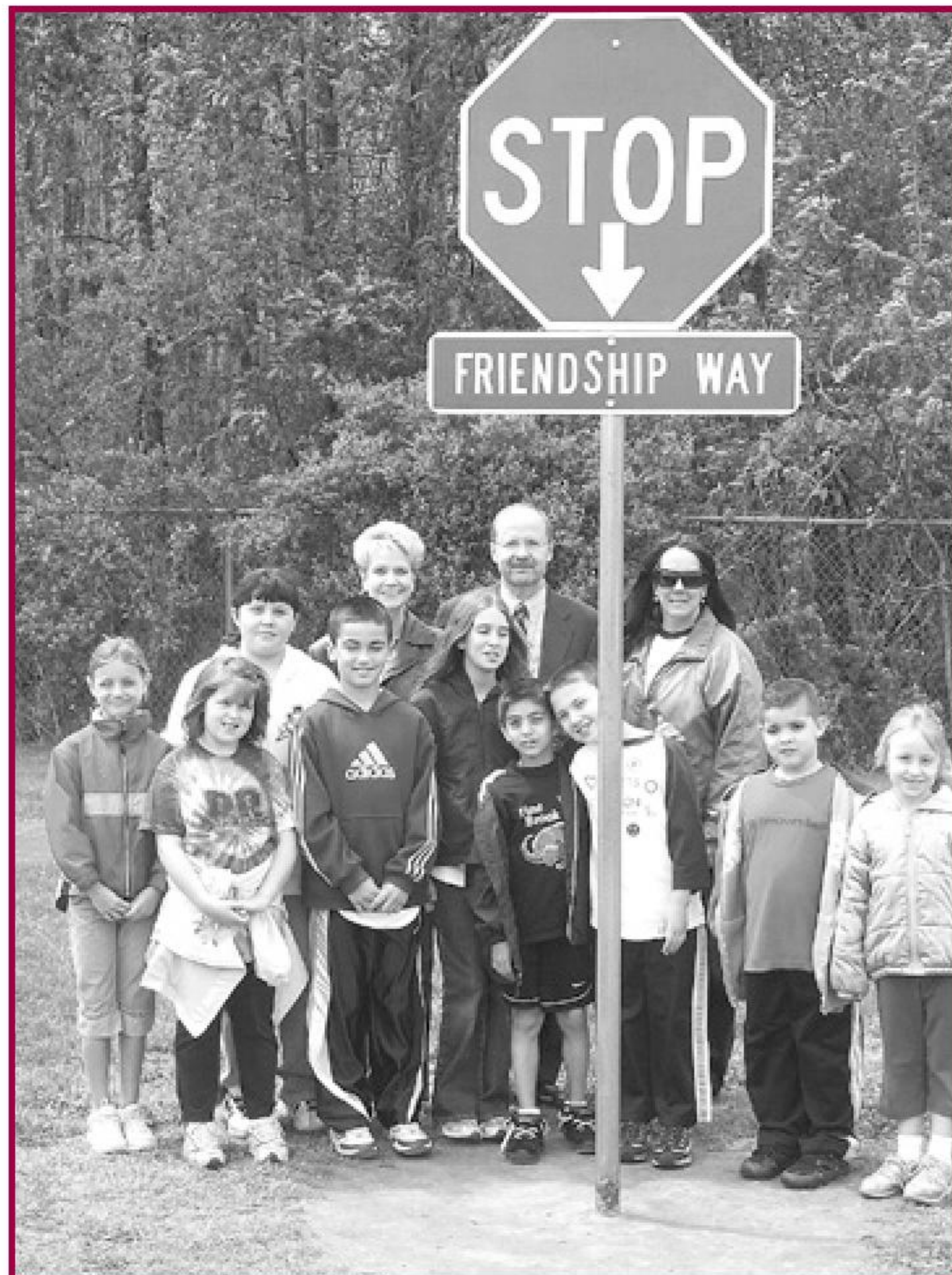
The assessment process is performed to correct inequities that creep into the assessment roll. When this happens some property owners may be paying more than their fair share in taxes while other are paying less. As a result of assessment adjustments, some property owners may notice a change in the overall amount of taxes they pay.

- ***If I believe my assessment is incorrect, how may I challenge it?***

A specific grievance process, guided by NYS law, is in place to allow you to challenge your assessment. Helpful information is available in the Assessor's Office at Greece Town Hall and online at www.tax.ny.gov or www.greecenyny.gov.

For information and forms, visit online at www.tax.ny.gov or www.greecenyny.gov or call Greece Town Hall @ 225-2000.

THROUGH THE YEARS



TOWN OF GREECE RECEIVES APA UPSTATE CHAPTER FOR PLANNING EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association (NYUAPA) presented the award to the Town at its annual conference September 26 in Schenectady.

“It is an honor for the Town of Greece to be recognized for our work in the Dewey Avenue Corridor by the American Planning Association,” said Supervisor John Auberger. “The efforts of our Town Board members, community members and staff are second to none and the Dewey Avenue corridor is seeing a tremendous revitalization due to those efforts.”

The 2013 NYUAPA Chapter Awards recognize outstanding work being done by planners, planning firms, elected officials, and citizens to advance the science and art of urban and regional planning in upstate New York.

The award which the Town received is described by the NYUAPA as follows:

Planning Excellence Award for Implementation

The Planning Excellence Award for Implementation recognizes an effort that demonstrates a significant achievement in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. Emphasis is on long-term measurable results to demonstrate that sustained implementation makes a difference. Nominated efforts need to have been in continuous effect for a minimum of five years. Winning efforts are distinguished for originality and innovation, quality, thoroughness, degree of public participation, effectiveness and results, and degree of community support.



Ward 3
Councilperson
Andrew Conlon

